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Opening of Parliament

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31.
The Parliament was opened to-day, with the usual formalities, and the Lord Chancellor read the following speech:—

"My LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,
We are commanded by Her Majesty to assure you that her Majesty has great satisfaction in again having recourse to the advice and assistance of her Parliament."

"The decease of her Majesty Queen Adelaide has caused her Majesty deep affliction.
The extensive charity and exemplary virtues of her late Majesty will always render her memory dear to the nation."

"Her Majesty happily continues in peace and amity with foreign powers."

"In the course of the autumn, differences of a serious character arose between the Governments of Austria and Russia on the one hand, and the Sublime Porte on the other, in regard to the treatment of a considerable number of persons who, after the termination of the civil war in Hungary, had taken refuge in the Turkish territory."

"Explanations which took place between the Turkish and Imperial Governments have, fortunately, removed any danger to the peace of Europe, which might have arisen out of these differences, her Majesty having been appealed to on this occasion by the Sultan, united her efforts with those of the Government of France, to which a similar appeal had been made, in order to assist, by the employment of her good offices, in effecting an amicable settlement of these differences in a manner consistent with the dignity and independence of the Porte."

"Her Majesty has been engaged in communications with foreign states, upon the measures which might be rendered necessary by the relaxation of the restrictions formerly imposed by the Navigation Laws of this country."

"The Governments of the United States of America and of Sweden have promptly taken steps to secure to British ships, in the ports of their respective countries, advantages similar to those which their own ships now enjoy in British ports."

"With regard to those foreign states whose navigation laws have hitherto been of a restrictive character, her Majesty has received from nearly all of them assurances which induce her to hope that our example will speedily lead to a great and general diminution of those obstacles which previously existed to a free intercourse by sea between the nations of the world."

"In the summer and autumn of last year, the United Kingdom was again visited by the ravages of the cholera; but Almighty God, in his mercy, was pleased to arrest the progress of mortality, and to stay this fearful pestilence."

"Her Majesty is persuaded, that we shall best evince our gratitude by vigilant precautions against the more obvious causes of sickness, and an enlightened consideration for those who are exposed to its attacks."

"Her Majesty, in her late visit to Ireland, derived the highest gratification from the loyalty and attachment manifested by all classes of her subjects. Although the effects of former years of scarcity are painfully felt in that part of the United Kingdom, they are mitigated by the present abundance of food, and the tranquillity which prevails."

"Her Majesty has great satisfaction in congratulating you on the improved condition of commerce and manufactures. It is with regret that her Majesty has observed the complaints which, in many parts of the Kingdom, have proceeded from the owners and occupiers of land. Her Majesty greatly laments that any portion of her subjects should be suffering distress; but it is a source of sincere gratification to her Majesty to witness the increased enjoyment of the necessities and comforts of life, which cheapness and plenty have bestowed upon the great body of her people."

"GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

"Her Majesty has directed the estimates for the year to be laid before you. They have been framed with a strict regard to economy, while the efficiency of the various branches of the public service has not been neglected."

"Her Majesty has seen, with satisfaction, the present state of the Revenue."

"My LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,
Some of the measures which were postponed at the end of the last session, for want of time for their consideration, will be again laid before you."

"Among the most important of these, is one for the better government of the Australian colonies."

"Her Majesty has directed various measures to be prepared for the improvement of the condition of Ireland. The mischiefs arising from party passions; the defects of the laws for regulating the relations of landlord and tenant; the imperfect state of the Grand Jury Acts; and the diminished number of electors for members to serve in Parliament will, together with other matters of serious consequence, form the subject of measures to be submitted for your consideration."

"Her Majesty has learned with satisfaction that the measures which have already been passed for the promotion of the public health, are in a course of gradual adoption; and her Majesty trusts that both in the metropolis and in various parts of the United Kingdom, you will be enabled to make further progress in the removal of evils which affect the health and well-being of her subjects."

"The favour of Divine Providence has hitherto preserved this Kingdom from the wars and convulsions which, during the last two years, have shaken so many of the states of the Continent of Europe. It is her Majesty's hope and belief that, by combining liberty with order, by preserving what is valuable, and amending what is defective, you will sustain the fabric of our institutions, as the abode and the shelter of a free and happy people."

"Their Lordships adjourned during pleasure."

After the speech from the Throne had been read by the Lord Chancellor, their Lordships adjourned till five o'clock, at which hour they re-assembled.

THE ADDRESS.

The Earl of Essex rose to move the Address in reply to her Majesty's Speech; and after an appropriate speech, in the course of which he paid a high compliment to the public press for its exertions in the cause of order, and expressed his approval of the line of policy pursued by Ministers with regard to the removal of the restrictions on commerce and the abolition of duties on food, and his conviction that the distress under which the agricultural community at present laboured was of a temporary nature, moved the Address, which was an echo of the sentiments contained in the Royal Speech.

Lord Methuen briefly seconded the address.
The Earl of Stradbroke declared that so far as his experience of Free Trade went, the present agricultural pressure seemed likely to be permanent. If the history of the Corn Laws were reviewed, it would be found that although low prices had occasionally occurred, they were entirely different, both in cause and effect, from the low prices which at present prevailed. Upon this point, therefore, he ventured to move the insertion of the following paragraph, after the words "commerce and manufactures":—"That we regret, however, to be compelled humbly to represent to your Majesty that in many parts of the United Kingdom, and especially in Ireland, the various classes of your Majesty's subjects connected with the cultivation of the soil are labouring under severe distress, mainly applicable, in our opinion, to recent legislative enactments, aggravated by the pressure of local taxation."

The Earl of Desart seconded the amendment, because he felt convinced that the interests of the landlord, labourer, and tenant in Ireland were fast progressing to a state of utter annihilation and ruin.

The Earl of Carlisle said he could see but little difference between the Address and the Amendment; and he, for one, deriving as he did all his income from land, entered most fully into that part of her Majesty's Speech in which she lamented that the owners and occupiers of land were subject to distress. Still no contradiction had been given, nor, in his opinion, could any be given, to that part of the Royal Speech which congratulated the country on the improved condition of commerce and manufactures; and still less could the existing distress in Ireland be alleged as an answer to that sentence which expressed her Majesty's gratification at the increased enjoyment of the necessities and comforts of life which low prices had bestowed on the nation at large. From returns in their possession, the Government were able to state that, comparing the 1st of January, 1849, with the 1st of January, 1850, there had been in England a decrease of above seven per cent. on the persons maintained out of the funds for the relief of the poor; while in Ireland the cost of supporting the poor in the workhouses had fallen from 2s. 1d. to 1s. 1d. per head. Although the agricultural horizon might be gloomy and lowering, he was not prepared to contemplate under any circumstances a return to protection; and for his part, rather than consent to any measure which would check the importation of the necessities of life, he would resign his office and his rank. He therefore called upon their Lordships to affirm, by a decisive majority, their unwillingness to revise the policy which they had so recently sanctioned.

The Duke of Richmond supported the amendment, and warned the noble Earl that if the free trade policy was persisted in, which had already brought ruin upon the agricultural interests of the kingdom, the time might come when he would have no occasion to make a voluntary sacrifice, for he would be shorn of all his honours and emoluments. To speak plainly, he thought the agricultural interest had been slighted in the speech from the throne, which, as he understood it, did not even admit that the agriculturists were suffering from distress. The noble Earl had talked of the cheapness of provisions, but had omitted to say anything about wages, which had fallen excessively in some districts, in which hundreds of labourers were out of work. It was surprising to hear the noble Earl talk of the courage which their Lordships displayed in passing the free trade measures. It was notorious that their Lordships were influenced by an opposite motive—they yielded to the pressure from without. Let it not be supposed that agricultural agitation would terminate with the year 1850. The farmers were men who when once aroused, would never cease exerting themselves until they obtained redress for their injuries. Every hustings in the country would be made a battle field on which they would steadily, but without violence of language, state their grievances and demand justice.

Earl Fitzwilliam contended that agriculture had never benefited by protection, and trusted their Lordships would not consent to insert in the Address any words calculated to inspire delusive hopes.

The Earl of Winchester thought it impossible for the English grower to compete at present prices with the Americans, and was determined never to rest satisfied till England had recovered that fair protection which had been taken from her. He had no hesitation in saying that he would agitate by every means in his power.

Earl Granville rejoiced to find a great difference between the language held in that house and that reported to have been used at Protectionist meetings. At those meetings it had been affirmed that distress was universal, while in the speeches they had just heard it was admitted that depression was confined to the classes immediately interested in agriculture. With respect to the farmer, there was no doubt that he was passing through a state of transition, and it could not be asserted that he was unable to compete with foreigners till it was seen what he was able to produce under a better system of agriculture. He thought there were many reasons for the present low price of corn, instead of its being attributed entirely to free trade.

Lord Brougham, though he did not consider agricultural distress at all exaggerated, disapproved in the strongest manner of the language which had been used at certain Protectionist meetings. A great deal had also been said as to the distress existing in certain classes of the community, and emigration had been proposed as a means of alleviating it, although he did not think it would be attended with the anticipated result. The noble and learned lord concluded by stating that having seen no cause why they should retrace their steps, he was unable to vote for the amendment.

Lord Stanley, after remarking on the cordial assent which certain portions of the Royal Speech would meet from all classes of the community, and especially those which related to the death of the Queen Dowager and to the visitation of the cholera, turned to those points which did not meet with his approbation. Considering the coolness which had arisen between this country and Russia on the Turkish question, he was surprised that her Majesty had been made to say that she was at peace and amity with all other nations; and with regard to agricultural distress, he was convinced that it could only be alleviated by a return to moderate protection. As an instance of the position of the landlords, the noble lord cited his own case; and he pledged his honour to their Lordships, that he had not received one shilling for his Irish property during the last eighteen months, and that about a quarter of his land was thrown upon his hands because he could not find a tenant. He believed a moderate protecting duty would be advantageous to agriculture and to the revenue, while it would not be injurious to the consumer. He did not ask their Lordships to interrupt the progress of that great experiment which he feared was leading inevitably to the most serious consequences; he only asked them, and he asked them with confidence, not to refuse their assent to the amendment, which affirmed that there were two causes for the distress of the agricultural interest—causes with which it was the function of the Government to deal; and they were entitled to say, that in one shape or other the Government was bound to take some steps for the removal of that distress.

The Marquis of Lansdowne defended the Royal Speech from the objections raised by the noble Lord (Stanley), and advised their Lordships to support the address, and throw out the amendment.

After a few observations from the Duke of Beaufort and Earl Grey, their Lordships divided, when the numbers were—

For amendment—Present 69. Proxies 24—103
Against it—Present 86. Proxies 66—142

Majority against the amendment... 49

The Address was then agreed to and ordered to be presented, and their Lordships adjourned shortly after one o'clock until Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Speaker and several members entered the House shortly before two o'clock, and were immediately afterwards summoned by the Yeoman Usher of the Black Rod to attend at the bar of the House of Lords to hear the Royal Speech read.

On the return of the Right Hon. gentleman, the House was adjourned till a quarter before four o'clock, when the following new members took the oath and their seats:—The Hon. D. A. Pelham, for the borough of Boston; Mr. Stanford, for Reading; Mr. Best, for Kidderminster; Mr. Evelyn, for the Western division of Surrey; Colonel Chatterton, for the city of Cork; and Lord A. Lennox, for Shoreham.

The Speaker read a letter from General Thackerell, acknowledging the vote of thanks passed to him by that House in April last, for his services in the Punjab.

NOTICES OF MOTION.—Mr. Tufnell informed the House that the following would be the first Government measures of the Session, all of which it was intended to introduce in the course of the ensuing fortnight:—namely, a bill to amend the Government of the Australian Colonies (to be introduced by Lord John Russell on Monday); several bills for amending the practice of the Common Law Courts and the Court of Chancery in Ireland; a bill relating to the execution of judgments in Ireland; a bill for the better government of the Colony of Ceylon; a bill to put down party processions in Ireland; a bill enabling persons having a limited interest in estates to grant improving leases; a bill for the better management of the Woods and Forests; a bill relating to the qualifications of masters and mates in the merchant service; and also for regulating the Merchant Seamen's Fund; a bill to alter and improve the mode of registration of voters in Ireland; and a bill to amend the Law relating to Savings' Banks.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS.—Mr. Anstey, for a repeal of the penal Acts against the Roman Catholics; by Mr. P. Scrope, to exempt housekeepers from the classes from Local Taxation; by Mr. Ewart, to enable Town Councils to establish Public Libraries; and to Repeal the Duties on Advertisements; by Mr. Adelerley, to repeal part of the Act 5 Geo. 4, which appoints places for the Transportation of Felons; and Mr. Moffatt, to bring in a bill with reference to insolvent Members.

THE ADDRESS.

The Speaker having read a copy of her Majesty's Speech,

Mr. C. Villiers rose to move the Address; and after premising that he had undertaken this office because he entirely agreed in the views which the Government now took of the interests of the people, and had the most implicit reliance in the noble Lord at the head of the Government that he would not compromise or surrender, but maintain those measures which he considered to be connected with the happiness and well-being of the people, proceeded to notice the principal topics of the Royal Speech. With reference to the present circumstances of the country, as adverted to in the speech, the hon. gentleman contended that they were a sufficient proof that all the predictions of the Free-traders had been fully realised, while those of the Protectionists had as signally failed. As to whether corn could or could not be grown at 40s. per quarter, he treated it as a matter with which Parliament had nothing at all to do, for Parliament was not bound to guarantee a man's profits or success in any business he might enter into. He denied that the

land was subject to any unjust taxation; on the contrary, all his inquiries clearly proved to him that the agriculturists enjoyed a great many exemptions which applied to no other class of the community. The land was, in truth, badly managed; for if properly cultivated there would be no necessity to import a single grain of corn from abroad, a necessity which was in itself a stigma upon the abilities of our cultivators. He defended the foreign policy of the country; insisted that the shipping interests were largely benefited by the repeal of the navigation laws; and that everything indicated an improved condition in the comforts and earnings of the labourers, whether agricultural or manufacturing, throughout the country. After dwelling at some length upon the shamefully abandoned state of landed property in Ireland, as exposed by the late visitation of Providence, which revealed to England and to Ireland how grievously property in the latter country was mismanaged, the honorable gentleman concluded by reading the Address, which was as usual an echo of the Royal Speech.

Sir James Duke, in seconding the Address, expressed a hope that the Government would feel the necessity of applying as rigid an economy to all branches of the public expenditure as was consistent with the safety and honour of the country. As one of the representatives of the City of London, he had no hesitation in saying that, to the best of his belief, at no former period were trade and commerce on a better footing, and not only there and in other large towns, but in the remotest towns and districts. He deeply lamented the existence of distress in the agricultural districts, but could not agree with the means suggested for remedying that distress; and he feared that, if the farmers were led to believe that that house would impose a duty upon corn, they would find themselves deceived.

The proposed address having been read,

Sir J. Trollope said he should move a few words as an addition to the address, by way of amendment, and he hoped by indulgence while doing so, it being the first time he had addressed the house. The speech of her Majesty, after adverting to the flourishing condition of commerce and manufactures, regretted that there had been complaints from the owners and occupiers of land, but it was hoped that the cheapness of food would alleviate the sufferings of the people. He thought that the complaints of the landed interest were scarcely treated with the attention and respect in this paragraph to which they were entitled. If not intentionally disrespectful, it at all events intimated no intention of doing anything. He should therefore move the insertion, after the words "commerce and manufactures," of the following words:—"And we most humbly represent to your Majesty, that in many parts of the United Kingdom, and especially in Ireland, the various classes engaged in the cultivation of the soil are exposed to severe distress, which, in our opinion, might justly be attributed to recent legislative enactments, and to the pressure of local taxation." In moving this amendment he would say the paragraph to which he proposed to add it was the only objectionable paragraph in the whole Address, but believing that the case of the agriculturists ought to be taken into consideration, he would ask the house to agree to his amendment.

Colonel Chatterton (the new member for Cork) seconded the amendment; and said that in that part of the country with which he was connected the distress extended to all classes, embracing landlords, farmers, and labourers, and he believed that no subject whatever more urgently demanded the consideration of Parliament than their depressed condition.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he was glad that on the first night of the session the amendment moved by the Hon. Baronet, who called for a reconsideration of the recent legislative measures, would bring the question to the issue, whether Parliament should retrace its steps, or persist in that course of legislation to which he believed the universal prosperity of the country was owing. Sir Charles then entered into various details, founded upon official documents, showing the augmentation of the foreign trade of Great Britain (the exports having mounted from £48,000,000 in 1848 to £58,000,000 in 1849) and its profitable character, and in the increase of ship building in this country, even for foreign orders; and contended that the distress amongst certain classes of the owners and occupiers of land in some parts of the country had been exaggerated.

In the great majority of the agricultural counties there had been a diminution of distress and a reduction of poor rates; and he relied upon the energy of the farmers to overcome the unavoidable effects of so great a change of the law, as they had overcome the distress caused by greater depression of prices under protection; though he denied that the present fall of prices was to be solely attributed to that change, and did not expect that the permanent price of corn would range so low as at present. The people of this country had a right to food at as cheap a rate as possible; the producers of it must therefore increase its quantity, and this could be done only by the application of additional industry, skill, and capital to the land. Even a reduction of rent was not to be put into competition with the benefit of a cheap supply of food to the labouring classes, which was already felt in the diminution of poor rates, these being £400,000 less in 1849 than in 1848. The Right Hon. Baronet then read various returns, which showed a progressive falling off in the number of able bodied poor relieved during the past year in most of the agricultural counties, as well as in Ireland; and asked how this fact could be reconciled with the alleged increase of distress amongst agricultural labourers? On the contrary, it confirmed the information he had received from various parts of the country of increased activity in the culture of the land, and of the improved condition of the peasantry. After reading statements of the imports of Foreign and Colonial produce, and of shipping entered in England, and pointing out how much the results were at

variance with the forebodings of the Protectionists, the Right Hon. Baronet concluded by stating that every branch of the Revenue had decidedly improved, the result being that there was an excess of income over expenditure for the year of £2,098,000.

Mr. H. Herbert, in supporting the amendment, disputed the deduction drawn by the Right Hon. Baronet from the diminution of the number of persons receiving out-door relief in Ireland; taxing Sir C. Wood with a flagrant inaccuracy in a speech upon the Irish Poor Law.

Mr. W. Fagan denied that the distress of Ireland could be ascribed to recent legislative enactments, which, on the contrary, have produced some abatement of that distress.

Sir J. Walsh regretted that the address had not been so framed that all could concur in it, instead of provoking a division; and maintained that the Government were precipitating a contest between the landed interest on one side, and the spirit of demagoguism on the other. The energies of British farmers, he feared, would be overtaxed, and when agriculture was reduced to its lowest depression, the manufacturers would be altogether dependent upon foreigners for food. Our late legislation was, he asserted, not final and irrevocable; and the result of the experiment had verified the apprehensions of its destructive effects upon the agriculture of the country.

Mr. G. Berkeley complained of the omission in the Royal Speech of any allusion to the state of the West India colonies, and condemned the terms in which the hon. members for Durham and the West Riding (Mr. Bright and Mr. Cobden) had spoken out of doors of our colonial possessions. He defied the Manchester School to prove that, with present prices, land could be farmed profitably even without rent; he denounced the doctrines of that school as fraught with delusion and danger, and charged them with stirring up an ill-feeling between landlord and tenant, and with using language calculated to exasperate the humble classes. Free-trade, as he had been, as well as a supporter of the Government, he felt the measure of free trade was a most disgraceful one, and that the agricultural interest had been ill used by the present Ministers; and unless something was done, that interest must be overwhelmed with ruin.

On the motion of the Marquis of Granby the debate was adjourned, and the house rose at 12 o'clock.

FRIDAY.—In the House of Commons, after an attempt by Mr. Hume to rescind that resolution of the House which prevents an amendment being moved upon the order of the day (an endeavour virtually negatived by a division of 151 to 81 on a question of adjournment, and then abandoned by Hume, with a protest against the system of gradual absorption of "the people's rights" in the privileges of the Executive), the debate upon the address was resumed by

The Marquis of Granby, who insisted that Ministers had intended to insult the suffering agriculturists by the wording of the Royal Speech. He reminded the house that those agriculturists were not the owners of the "middle class" of the country, but were actually equal in number to the males of twenty-one years of age employed in all our manufactures. He strenuously asserted that the condition of the labouring poor was worse now than last year. He cited, with great approbation, a passage from the letters on "Labour and the Poor," in the *Morning Chronicle*, to show that many labourers were actually desirous to be committed to prison for some minor offence, in order to obtain the comforts there afforded. He contended—and read some letters from Sheffield and elsewhere to prove—that our trade was not improving in the degree alleged by the Government. He added statistics of our foreign trade, in order to show that, if the United States should impose a protective duty upon our exports to America, in pursuance of his threat, a third of our boasted prosperous trade would be gone. But his party demanded that, if free-trade were to be the order of the day, it must be full, free, and impartial free-trade. Let the agriculturist be free to cultivate his land as he pleased—to produce tobacco, and beet-root, and barley, too, for such purposes as he might desire. He concluded by warning ministers that, in spite of their treatment of his party, and of the subservience of Government to a faction which sought to undermine all our institutions, his party would continue to uphold the interests of the agriculturists.

Mr. Evelyn Denison thought the speedy settlement of the question of great importance to the owners and occupiers of land. He censured the way in which the leaders of the agricultural party had been passing their time. They had been calling public meetings, and making speeches, when they should have been teaching the farmers to provide for the difficulties of their situation by higher cultivation and improved economy. It was all very well for the landlords to say that they and the tenant "rowed" in the same boat; but the fact was, that the landlords would not only not row, but instead of urging their crew to pull, contented themselves by calling attention to the fury of the waves and the roar of the cataract, and announcing that all were lost. However, tenants were beginning to understand their interests, and the respective value of land, and he looked forward to great improvements from the intelligence and industry of that class. He concluded a brief but effective speech, which was attentively listened to, by a declaration that he had been in the House many years, but never gave a vote with more satisfaction than now against the amendment.

Lord Norreys saw no chance of obtaining protection, much as it might be desirable, and, therefore, the only thing was to exercise a wise economy in regard to taxation, and when the time came to relieve the farmer of some of his burdens. Captain Pelham (Lord Yarborough's brother), as the only member returned in Lincolnshire upon Free-trade principles, reminded the agriculturists who complained of the mode in which the repeal of the corn-laws had been carried, that the result of a general election had ratified the act. He defended the mea-

sure, but recommended the revision of our taxation.

Mr. Christopher (uncle to the last speaker) regretted the course his nephew had taken. He denied that the present was merely a landlord's question, and entered into details of pauperism in Lincolnshire, to show the state of the labourer even in that favoured county. He gave a long description of a farm of his own to illustrate the real condition and difficulties of the farmer, upon whose unprosperous state he declaimed with considerable energy to a thin house.

Mr. McCullagh supported the Address in a lengthy speech upon the unfortunate state of Ireland, and more especially upon that of Galway.

Mr. Palmer acquitted ministers of an intentional slight to the agriculturists, but feared that people out of doors would scarcely do. His address was directed towards establishing the fact of agricultural distress, but he slightly varied the monotony of previous speakers on the same side, by introducing the case of the provincial retail traders, who, he asserted, were suffering deeply from the absence of their late customers' means.

Mr. Muntz did not see the use of this debate. Neither these ministers nor any others could retrace their steps, even if they wished it. The question of free-trade was settled, and its settlement had, there was no denying, done great good to a large body of people. But to gain this body, we had already ruined our West India possessions, ruined Ireland, and were now ruining the agriculturists, and therefore it was all nonsense to call the improvement a national one. A man with a five-pound note in each pocket might as well put both notes into one pocket and call himself richer. Mr. Muntz, after expressing his wonder that the house should laugh when he approached the currency question, plunged into his favourite theory about bullion and the price of commodities, and ended by supporting the Address.

Mr. Herries, in reference to the advantages alleged to have been gained by shipbuilders, accused ministers of having erected that fabric of prosperity upon a narrow and unworthy base, and, with the aid of statistics of his own, he took to pieces the statements of the Exchequer, in order to show that the increase in this department was neither real nor, even in its fictitious character, a result of the recent legislation. He sought to draw a similar inference from the export returns, but the noisy inattention of the house rendered it very difficult to catch the connecting sentences of the honorable gentleman's arguments. He said that justice would ultimately be done. He would not deal in the denunciations fulminated by the party to whom Government was unhappily subservient (denunciations which the agricultural party would never imitate). The returning wisdom of Parliament would finally restore what its ill-judged haste had taken away.

Mr. Labouchere, in an effective speech, appealed to the ship-building and ship-owning interest in the country to say whether their labour had been paralysed in the way prophesied and described by gentlemen opposite. He declared that interest to be in a most satisfactory condition. There were as many ships building now as in any of the last ten years, and, moreover, they were better and larger ships, for the natural energy of Englishmen was teaching them improvements. He said that there could not be a greater error than to say that manufactures were protected and favoured shown in the statute book, but any one who would examine our tariff would see how trifling that protection was. There was £74,000 produced by a duty on silk, and one or two other articles, but all the great staples were absolutely and completely unprotected. The highest duty of all was one of 25 per cent., which applied to a species of labour almost entirely confined to the hands of a class for which public sympathy was now most deservedly strong—that of females. The needlewomen, too, certainly enjoyed some protection. But he then detailed, on the other hand, the list of foreign articles of agricultural produce really taxed, and showed that they produced nearly the same amount as the whole taxes on foreign manufactures. The tobacco grievance he ridiculed, and the Government most emphatically told the agriculturist, and in answer to ironical cries from the Protectionists, he reiterated the denial, but he declared that the house would never return to protection, which he described as an *ignis fatuus*, and a delusion. He described no nice calculations on such a subject; it was the wildest phantasy to say that a system which so magnificently promoted its general prosperity could ever, except at the moment of transition, really injure so important and solid an interest as that of agriculture.

Mr. Disraeli supported the amendment. There could be no doubt about agricultural distress now, for it had been admitted by the very mover of the address, and by a first-rate witness, the President of the Board of Trade, who declared that within a very short period, a sum equal to an eighth of the National Debt had been taken from the agricultural class by an unexpected enactment. There was distress in England, dismay in Scotland, and desolation in Ireland. Yet in the Speech from the Throne, that general, if not universal, distress of three mighty kingdoms was not even called "distress," but only "complaint," the very justice of which was not recognised. Some words of philanthropic mockery were added, but they were mere abstract statements, not bearing upon the condition of the agriculturists. He had heard rumours of the adhesion of dukes and other great persons to the cause of agriculture, but he cared little for the support of the whole peerage, if the cause he advocated were not that of labour—of British labour. He then alluded to the frequent and hurried Cabinet Councils which had been held, only to end in dinners; and he introduced, with no great felicity or success, the story of Cromwell, who was supposed to have been seeking the Lord when he was only seeking the cork-screw. He retorted the charge of improper language upon the free-traders, and taunted the Manchester men with

"Jacobite jargon." He sneered at the pauperism test of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, which, he said, only showed that after emerging from a period of extraordinary depression, there was an insensible diminution in beggary—a reduction of 7 per cent. He declared that on the other hand, 20 per cent. of the employment given last year to our labourers was "factitious," and only given as a matter of humanity. He contended that land bore unequal and unfair burdens, and made a point by asking the ministers, "pupils of the Manchester school," why, if land were the "raw material," they declared it to be, they "taxed it," in defiance of all their master's teaching in economy. He would demand two things for the agriculturist—that he should be put, first, upon an equal footing with his fellow-subjects; and, secondly, upon an equal footing with the foreigner. There were 250,000 landed proprietors in these kingdoms, and associated with their interests were millions; and yet it was the distress of these millions that ministers advised their Sovereign to treat with "derision." But ministers must not expect to escape the settlement of the question. They must either reconstruct their system, in accordance with justice, or carry out that system to legitimate consequences. He wanted a return to abrogated laws; the paterfamilias of those laws entitled them to no posthumous honour; but he wanted justice; and if the Prime Minister would give that, he might reckon upon plentiful, zealous, and disinterested support from the agriculturists. But if he denied that, and sought to carry on his government with a Jacobin Free-trade, on one hand, and a Conservative Privy Council on the other, he might retain his ministry, but he would destroy the throne. He taunted the Manchester men with saying elsewhere what they dared not say in the house, and added in a tone of subdued but intense menace, that his party would take an opportunity of showing that they were not afraid of those before whom others trembled.

The house was densely crowded by an excited auditory, when Lord John Russell rose, just at midnight. He complimented the temperate manner in which the amendment had been moved, and then recapitulated the principal points of its supporters, exposing their inconsistencies and contradictions of one another. He alluded sarcastically to the "ambiguity" of Mr. Disraeli's words, and said that there were two courses, either of which might be consistently adopted by honorable members; one was to let words of compliment pass, in a unanimous tribute to the sovereign, and to reserve discussion—the other to call upon the house to decide against sanctioning the ministerial system for another hour. But Mr. Disraeli's was an utterly unmeaning amendment. Lord John Russell then confirmed the ministerial denial of intentional insult to the landed interest, but the murmurs from the Protection benches intimated that the party was determined to feel insulted. In answer to Mr. Disraeli's remarks about the Cabinet Councils, Lord John said, that without revealing Cabinet secrets to that gentleman, there was no intention of increasing the land tax, as Mr. Disraeli seemed to hint, "or," added Lord John, amid a shout of applause and laughter, "of creating something of which we have heard during the recess—a vast sinking fund." The distress which had followed the change in the corn laws was actually not so great as he had anticipated, and he cited the experience of other years to show the state of prices when Protection existed. He could not sympathise with the complaints that a working man could buy his loaf cheaply, while the farmer was actually receiving as high a price as in the protected times of 1835. Every man, woman, and child in England had a share in this question. Was the house prepared to reimpose the tax, and to take the responsibility which that act would attach to it? There was no responsibility now on the score of feeding the people. Let the price of corn go up as it might, no man could complain of the Legislature, which had done him justice in giving him food as cheap as it could be procured. But tax that food, and the house would again be responsible for whatever suffering might happen by any accidental rise or come of seasons. Were members prepared for that? It was wiser not to run the risk of discontents which might arise, and the awful results which those discontents might lead. He appealed to English gentlemen (quoting Gibbon as to the honour implied in such a title) to be content with what had been done. We had made a great gain, accompanied by a certain distress to a certain class. Believe that class, if you can do so fairly. But do not ask the country to reconsider a decision to which it has come through its representatives, and has confirmed by a subsequent election.

Mr. Cobden regretted that there was no opportunity for discussing the question of Free-trade and Protection, because there was a strong feeling in the country that the house was disposed to reconsider that question. Government had shown no disposition to palter with the subject, nor had certain of the gentlemen opposite. But Mr. Disraeli had changed the character of the debate. After speech involved a sorry beginning, his so much Protectionist noise in the country. It was an entire evasion of the whole question, and it was of the utmost importance that an immediate and final settlement should be made of such a question. As for the tactics of the Protectionists, in running about the country, disheartening their farmers, making them discontented with their land, and depreciating the value of their own property, they were perfectly suicidal. Did ever a dealer in "raw material" act so before? Mr. Cobden then called upon Mr. Disraeli to lose no time in bringing the question to real discussion, and put a notice directly upon the books for that purpose.

The House became impatient for a division, but—

Mr. Drummond insisted on answering Mr. Cobden's challenge, and avowing the readiness of the Protectionists to come to issue upon the question. He accused Mr. Cobden of "sacrificing English

labour," and defied him to misunderstand that.

Colonel Thompson struggled manfully against the impetuosity of the house, and said some energetic words directed against the principle of Protection, and continued to shout to the stormy audience in tones which were continually drowned in the tumult. An anecdote of "an eminent Treasury whip now deceased" provoked some laughter, but the confusion was renewed, and at a quarter to two the galleries were cleared for a division. The result was—

For the Amendment 192
For the Original Motion . . . 311
Majority in favour of the Address 119
The house adjourned at two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—MONDAY.

ANSWER TO THE ADDRESS.—The Lord Chamberlain brought down her Majesty's most gracious answer to the Address. It was as follows:—

"My Lords,—I thank you for your dutiful and loyal Address. It is highly gratifying to me to receive such an assurance of your feelings on the loss which the Royal Family and the whole nation have sustained in the death of her Majesty Queen Adelaide. It will be my duty to promote the welfare of my people, and to watch over the important interests confided to my care."

The Lord Chancellor brought in a Bill, which was read a first time, to unite the offices of Registrar of the Court of Bankruptcy and the Lord Chancellor's Secretary in Bankruptcy.

Lord Stanley put several questions as to the demands which our Government had lately made of that of Greece.

The Marquis of Lansdowne stated, that those proceedings had been resorted to for the purpose of procuring a redress of grievances of many years' duration. He had no objection to produce all the papers.

The Earl of Aberdeen said, it appeared to him that the Government had not only brought themselves into a rash and unadvised position with respect to Greece, but into a very serious difficulty with France and Russia.

After some further conversation, in which Lord Brougham took part, the matter dropped.

The Marquis of Lansdowne introduced a Bill for amending the law relating to the Ecclesiastical Commission, which is to be read a second time on Monday next.

THEIR LORDSHIPS THEN ADJOURNED.

TUESDAY.—HIS EMINENCY, the Bishop of London, the Clergy Proceedings Bill, establishing a court of appeal in suits instituted against the clergy and others for heresy, was read a first time, the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Brougham expressing their high satisfaction with the measure.

AUDITS.—Lord Montagu, after inquiring the intention of the Government as to the Railway Audit Bill, observed that there were at this moment no less than sixty-one railway bills before the house, or in the private bill office.

Earl Granville said that the government would be prepared to bring in an audit bill of its own, in case the railway authorities or shareholders could not succeed in preparing a satisfactory measure for that purpose.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.—IN ANSWER

to Lord Beauchamp, Earl Granville was understood to promise the reintroduction of the bill to enable joint stock companies to wind up their affairs.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNED AT HALF-PAST SIX.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MONDAY.

Papers were promised by Lord Palmerston in reference to the destruction of the Borneo pirates by Rajah Brooke, to the treatment of the Italian refugees in Malta by Mr. O'Ferrall, and to the state of Cephalonia and the late proceedings there under martial law.

Mr. Greene read a letter from Mr. Barry, stating that the new House of Commons itself might be got ready for members during the present session, but that the adjournment of the house (the committee rooms, refreshment rooms, &c.) would require considerable time, and that if a sufficient vote were immediately granted (as a suggestion at which the House laughed heartily) Mr. Barry would undertake that all should be ready by the first day of next session.

Mr. Labouchere, in answer to a question by Mr. Sandford, said that a measure upon the subject of railway audits ought to have been before the house, agreed upon by the directors of railways and the shareholders, but that these parties could not agree in presenting a practical measure, and that an influential body of shareholders had taken the subject in hand, and a bill was promised by them, which, he said, both the house and the public had a right to expect daily.

THE RUPTURE WITH GREECE.—Mr. Milner Gibson asked the Foreign Secretary for information as to the rumored state of affairs in Greece.

Lord Palmerston briefly stated that differences had arisen, and that Admiral Parker had received orders to assist Mr. Wyse in bringing about a satisfactory termination to those differences. The Government had received an account of an interview between Mr. Wyse and the representatives of the Greek Government, which had ended unpleasantly, and "here" added Lord Palmerston [amid the laughter of the house] "the account breaks off."

On the report on the Address being brought in, Mr. Disraeli complained of the meagre and suspicious phraseology of the Royal Speech in reference to our relations with foreign powers. He said we glided from "relations of a very friendly character" to a mere statement that we were not at war. He wished to know whether at Madrid, whether the Court of Vienna would send a representative here, and whether the Danish question were really settled? He also hoped that Lord Palmerston would give a more popular and satisfactory account of our relations with Greece; for that at present there seemed nothing to justify our interference. There certainly was a story about some land being taken from a British subject; but really, when so little sympathy was manifested for the owners of land at home, he could not but think it inconsistent in the Go-

vernment to make so much of an outrage abroad.

Mr. Roebuck said that the question was really a grave and a national one; for that Lord Palmerston had been running the risk of a hostile intervention by Russia and France against us. As to Spain, he hoped that no representative would be appointed by us; for we had gone on very badly while we had one there, and very well ever since—a singular case, which also would lead to a general deduction.

Lord Palmerston said that the grievances for which redress had been asked were that land had been forcibly taken from a British subject to increase the gardens of King Otho's Palace, and that the house of another British subject had been violently broken into and sacked by a mob partly composed of soldiers in the King's service, and instigated by a son of the Minister at War, and satisfaction had been refused for both these outrages. The other question on which differences had arisen was perfectly simple, certain islands having been constituted the Ionian state, in 1800, by a treaty between the Porte and Russia, confirmed in 1815, and the islands in question had been expressly named in that treaty. He could not say that the diplomatic relations had been restored between ourselves and Spain, but non-official communications had taken place with every prospect of a favourable result. As regarded Austria, at this moment she had no ambassador here; but the understanding between the Cabinets was so satisfactory that we continued our representative at the Court of Vienna—though, of course, should the absence of an Austrian ambassador become permanent, we should not continue at Vienna an official of higher rank than the representative sent by Austria. There certainly had been differences of opinion between the Cabinets; but her Majesty's Government was quite aware of the importance of avoiding a rupture of friendly relations with Austria. As for the Schleswig-Holstein question, he could not say that it was settled, but Government was most anxious to bring it to a close, and would spare no exertion for that purpose; but very grave questions and important conflicting interests were engaged in it.

Answer to an inquiry by Mr. Chisholm Anstey, Lord Palmerston expressed himself satisfied with the good faith and good feeling of Russia in reference to the number of its soldiers in Moldavia and Wallachia, and towards the Sultan's empire, and thought that allowances ought to be made for recent difficulties with which Russia had had to deal.

Lord Palmerston concluded by generally repelling Mr. Disraeli's insinuations against the pacific tendencies of the present Government.

Sir R. H. Inglis complained that Lord Palmerston had evaded the most important part of the subject, that of Greece, and complimented the administration of Sir Edmund Lyons. He demanded whether our blockade was instituted with the sanction of Russia and France.

Lord Palmerston replied that these very questions arose during Sir Edmund Lyons' time, and, in answer to the question said, that it was not usual to ask the sanction of other powers to rights the wrongs of a British subject.

Mr. Packer made a long and violent Protectionist speech to benches which the retirement of members, upon the conclusion of Lord Palmerston's answer, had left almost empty.

Mr. Hume, who assailed the preceding speaker in severe terms; and recommended Mr. Cobden, who had been especially attacked, to treat Mr. Packer's speech with contempt. He asked Lord John Russell whether he intended to bring in any measure of Parliamentary reform which would do away with the system of nomination to the House of Commons—a reform which, he alleged, the people demanded. He also urged a reduction of our military force and of taxation, and concluded a remodelling of our whole colonial system.

Mr. Henry Grafton described the speech of the mover of the address as a *supplicatio veri*, though not a *suggestio falsi*, for it had said nothing about Ireland. That country might have supplied England with corn as Sicily supplied Rome, but we had ruined her. He went into an argument to show the partiality of our Free Trade system, pathetically enlarging upon the duties charged upon foreign goods of various kinds; and in a long speech upon the wrongs of Ireland at the hands of England, introduced a statement which occasioned some amusement to the house, namely, that contracts extended for the regular supply of certain English goods of an improper character with good looking recruits from the ranks of Irish female pauperism. He drew a highly coloured picture of the sufferings of different portions of the Irish population, all of which distress he laid at the door of England, and declared that the ministers ought to be brought to the block, and as according to a Roman legend, a newly discovered bleeding head was held as an omen that the capital would be saved, so an omen of the salvation of Ireland might be found in the bloody head of an English Minister.

Mr. Philip Howard advocated an extension of the suffrage to our population, who deserved a reward for their orderly and loyal conduct.

Mr. Bennett made a short Protectionist speech, insisting upon the distress among the agriculturists.

Colonel Sibthorp lavished some good natured abuse upon the Anti-Corn Law League, the Ministry, Parliament generally (in which he said he had sat for twenty years, and found it in a worse condition every year), the Exposition of 1851, which he attacked as a boon to foreigners at our own expense, and the Emigration of Females, which he said was a premium on a certain immorality, the gallant Colonel bluntly described by its scriptural epithet. He also reproved Ministers for getting "too fat" to do their duty, and for overlooking their unfortunate clerks and subordinates.

Sir John Young believed that a well-defined franchise would be one of the greatest benefits that could be conferred upon Ireland, whose condition he showed had been equally wretched under the Protection system. He then read some correspondence for the purpose of refuting a statement made by the Rev. Mr. O'Sullivan as to Lord Lansdowne's Irish estates.

Mr. George Banks read a Queen's Speech delivered while Sir John Young was in office, and argued, from that speech that Sir John had either changed his opinion (inasmuch as the Speech mentioned the improving state of Ireland), or had publicly agreed with colleagues with whom he previously disagreed. He was interrupted somewhat warmly, by Sir John, but persisted in his line of argument, from which he passed to a long Protectionist speech, much applauded by the few members who remained upon the opposition benches. He defied the manufacturers to rise and say that their trade was in a sound and healthy state of prosperity. Passing to the "expulsion" of our ambassador from Spain, he stated that our woollen trade had suffered by recent events, for Spain had placed a duty of 2d. a yard upon our woollen manufactures when imported in Spanish ships, and 3d. when imported in English ships. He said that Manchester was startled by the news from Greece, and would not believe that the trumpety reasons assigned for the rupture were the real ones, but that Lord Palmerston, who had not given categorical answers to the questions on the subject, had other causes of difference in reserve.

Mr. Spooner thought the flow of bullion into the Bank a very "dangerous" symptom, and went into its causes, in order to repel the charge of false prophecy brought against his party by the free traders.

Colonel Thompson addressed a brief answer to Mr. Spooner, and contended that manufacture had as good a right as agriculture to be called "native industry," and if not to be encouraged, to be let alone.

Lord John Russell said that the question of delay in repaying the Government advances (mentioned by Lord Bernard) was under consideration, and the result would speedily be announced. As to the Irish railways, his lordship said that much had been done to facilitate their construction, and there would be no difficulty in the way of doing more. He would also state that the reduction of expense in the collection of the poor-rates had been considerable; it amounted to £90,000. He added, in answer to Mr. Hume, that no bill would be introduced this session for extending the franchise in England. He would not occupy the House at that hour (half-past eleven) with an unnecessary word.

Viscount Newport, not having had an earlier opportunity of addressing the house, considered it his duty to his constituents to express the great regret and deep dissatisfaction with which they, in common with a great portion of the people, would receive that part of her Majesty's speech to which the amendment referred. As by a coincidence of circumstances the expressions had not passed her Majesty's lips, so he did not believe they proceeded from her heart. The statement of the hon. member for Buckinghamshire (Mr. Disraeli), that the cause of protection was not the cause of the farmers and agriculturists alone, but of all classes, had been met by smiles and ironical cheers from the opposite benches, but he (Viscount Newport) had read the report of a meeting of the operative silk weavers of London convened by themselves, to consider the rights of labour, whereas several speakers expressed similar opinions amid the cheering of the operatives. A gentleman named Kydd, with whom he had no acquaintance, but whose views he understood were not those of the Protectionists, but rather of the extreme nature generally called Chartist, was cheered by the assembled operatives when he declared that the principle of buying in the cheapest and selling in the dearest market must be ruinous to the mechanic. Another speaker said that the alterations made by Mr. Huskisson in 1824 laid the foundation of the operatives' ruin, and that when waiting, as one of a deputation, on the honorable member for Montrose (Mr. Hume), in 1834, on the state of wages, the honorable gentleman confessed he wished to destroy the weaker interests of the country to force them to ask for the repeal of the corn-laws. Thus it appeared that whether that measure was right or wrong, the advocates of it were aware it would ruin the weaker classes of the country twelve years before it was carried. He did not admit the justice of charging the hon. member (Mr. Disraeli) with ambiguity of purpose—what he said was, in effect, that though he believed the system of Protection to be the fairest and best, yet, as Parliament had by large majorities chose to enforce the system of Free Trade, he only called on them to carry it out to its full and legitimate extent, to take the burdens off the agricultural interest, and to remove the duties on malt, hops, spirits, tea, and tobacco, as a matter of principle to which they were entitled. To the best of his belief that was the position taken by the honorable member (Mr. Disraeli), with which the noble lord at the head of the government and the hon. member for the West Riding found fault, but in which he fully concurred. He could assure the government, if it was any consolation to them, that he had given his vote against them in no spirit of hostility. On the contrary, he would much regret to see them defeated by a combination of parties, in most of whom he could not place political confidence. (Hear, hear.) But he would tell her Majesty's Ministers that unless they carried out their principles in a fair, just, and impartial manner, by removing the restrictions which fettered agricultural industry, as well as the duties which entered largely into the consumption of the people, they would be compelled by the justice of the people of England to make way for other statesmen who would place the commercial and social system of the country on a sounder principle, and that he believed to be protection to native industry.

Colonel Sibthorp concluded that debate by declaring that protection would certainly be carried out of these days. The report was then agreed to, and the House adjourned at half-past twelve.

TUESDAY.—Sir George Grey announced that ministers would not present any bill this Session upon the report of the Commissioners on the Law of Settlement; and

Lord John Russell said that a bill for a national registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Ireland would, he hoped, be ready before Easter.

Sir William Somerville stated (in answer to Lord Castlereagh) that, on the 18th instant, government would introduce a bill for facilitating arrangements between landlord and tenant in Ireland.

CHURCH AFFAIRS.—Mr. Horsman

moved a resolution to appoint three paid commissioners for the management of the property under the Ecclesiastical Commission, in compliance with the recommendation of the committee of inquiry into the composition and management of that Commission. He urged the expediency on various grounds, of withdrawing the episcopal members of that board, whose temporal and secular functions, as commissioners, were incompatible with the due fulfilment of their spiritual duties; and he animadverted in strong terms upon the proceedings of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, whom he accused of being unfaithful guardians of a fund which was the treasury of the poor, and which had been squandered and exhausted. What, he asked, would the House think of a board of episcopal trustees, charged with administration of a large fund, to be applied to the most sacred purposes, taking no cognizance of it? Yet from 1836 to 1845 they kept no account, and exercised no supervision or control over these immense funds, which were left in the hands of the secretary, the amount of a million sterling. The natural result of affairs so ill administered followed. About three years ago it was notified that the commission was bankrupt, and three months ago that the secretary had run away with all the money he could lay his hands on. The committee of inquiry, composed of gentlemen of high character and influence in the house, (including five Ecclesiastical Commissioners) whom no one could accuse of being unfriendly to the board, had agreed unanimously to a report, condemning the management of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and recommending the appointment of paid commissioners to take charge of the temporalities of the commission; and his object was to obtain a declaration of the house in support of this proposition.

Sir George Grey said, he had always been of opinion that the composition of the Commission was too large, leading to irregularity in the performance of its duties, and the devolving on the secretary—confidence which he had abused, although the amount of his defalcations was under £7000. Referring to a charge made against him by Mr. Horsman in a published letter to his constituents, Sir George Grey observed, "as the honorable member has not ventured to repeat that charge in my presence, I shall not condescend to reply to it."

Mr. Hume said, Sir George Grey had not controverted any of the important facts stated by Mr. Horsman, who, he hoped, would persevere. The country had a right to complain of the government for allowing these abuses to continue so long.

Mr. Aglionby likewise considered that the house and the country were under obligations to his colleague for bringing the subject forward.

After a few words from Sir H. Willoughby, Sir R. Inglis, and Mr. Mangels, Mr. Horsman briefly replied and withdrew his motion.

NEW MEASURES.—Mr. Drummond then obtained leave to bring in a bill to facilitate the transfer of real property; Mr. Moffatt a bill to amend the law relating to bankrupt members of the house; and Mr. W. Fagan a bill to make life policies of insurance assignable at law.

Sir R. Inglis, in moving for papers connected with the expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin and his companions, strongly urged the government to lose no time in resuming the search, suggesting certain subsidiary means in aid of it.

Mr. Anstey seconded the motion, adding further suggestions.

Sir F. Baring said he was the intention of the government to send out another expedition from the eastward, by Lancaster Sound. It would be better, he observed, to reserve the details of the course to be adopted until the papers were ready to be laid on the table; but he assured the house that he was ready and anxious to give a respectful consideration to propositions, and to adopt that which appeared to be most efficacious. He believed that there still remained some degree of hope as justified the government in taking every practical means to rescue Sir J. Franklin and his companions, or to ascertain their fate.

After some further remarks by Mr. Wylde, the motion was agreed to.

COUNTY RATES.—Mr. M. Gibson moved for leave to bring in a bill to establish county financial boards for the assessing of county rates and the administration of county expenditure, which, after a short discussion, was given.

PLURALITIES.—Mr. Frewen obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law relating to the holding of benefices in plurality.

THE HOUSE ADJOURNED AT A QUARTER TO 10 O'CLOCK.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11.

THEIR LORDSHIPS sat for a few minutes only on Friday. On Monday, after a short conversation, in reference to the affairs of Greece,

The Marquis of Lansdowne moved the second reading of the New Ecclesiastical Commission Bill, and entered at considerable length into the details of the measure.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in reference to the unhappy circumstance by which £7000 or £8000 had been abstracted from the funds of the church, could not help saying that the late secretary of the commission had, up to within the last six months of his official life, performed the part of a faithful and useful servant. It would appear that some unhappy speculations, involving him in embarrassments, had induced him, in an evil hour, to appropriate the funds confided to him, in the expectation that he should be able to replace them.

Lord Harrowby, the Bishop of London, and Lord Stanley pressed for an augmentation in the number of bishops; and, after some discussion as to the proposed consolidation of the episcopal and common fund, which the Marquis of Lansdowne declared that the government were determined to effect, the bill was read a second time, and ordered to be committed that day fortnight.

THEIR LORDSHIPS THEN ADJOURNED.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

Lord Stanley presented two petitions from the Cape, praying that convicts might not be transported to that colony.

Lord Brougham thought the conduct of the colonists most cruel and unjustifiable in not allowing the unfortunate convicts to land, after they had experienced the sufferings of a three months' voyage.

Lord Stanley intimated his opinion that the colonists had gone much too far in their opposition to this order. He certainly would not vindicate their conduct.

Some other business was then despatched, and their lordships adjourned.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

The Marquis of Londonderry endeavored to obtain from Lord Stanley some information as to the motion on the affair at Dolly's Brae which that noble lord had placed on the notices for Monday next. He entreated Lord Stanley, unless he had some practical object in view, not to fan the flames of party animosity in Ireland.

Lord Stanley could only promise that he would confine himself to the great constitutional question which he proposed to bring before the house. If the noble marquis really wanted to know the object of his motion, he hoped that he would come down and listen to the statement which he should make on Monday night, he was sorry to say, at some length.

THE EARL OF LUCAN THEN MOVED FOR A

nominal return of the poor-law unions in Ireland where the affairs have been administered by paid guardians.

THE RETURNS WERE ORDERED, AND THEIR LORDSHIPS ADJOURNED.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8.

COLONIAL POLICY.—Lord John Russell rose (in committee of the whole house) to make a statement of the colonial policy of the present government. His lordship sketched the history of all our colonies. He then considered the various opinions and plans put forth, as he said, upon superficial knowledge, in regard to the future treatment of our colonies, and he asserted that it was our bounden duty, as a responsible body, we could not get rid of, to retain those possessions which proved an important part of the strength of our empire. We had also a duty to the native races we had brought into subjection, and who, did we abandon them, would relapse into barbarism. In a commercial view, too, these colonies, which afforded harbour and security to our ships, were useful in time of peace, and necessary in time of war. He showed that the result of our casting off our colonial possessions would be that they, unable to preserve their independence, would most justly, throw themselves upon foreign nations. Disposing of other plans which were in effect but modifications of the proposal for abandonment, his lordship approached the question as to the mode in which we ought to govern these dependencies. As to Canada, its constitution was well known; and it was only necessary for him to say, in reference to the idle threats of annexation to the United States, that the discontented parties were too well aware of the determined will of the Sovereign and her advisers to execute their threat. It has been resolved to introduce representative institutions into our Cape colony, where an assembly and also a legislative council would be established. New South Wales was to have a single council, one-third of its members to be appointed by government, and two-thirds to be elected; but the colony was to have the power, hereafter, of demanding two chambers if it wished. Customs duties were to be settled by themselves. Port Phillip was to be separated from New South Wales, and to form a distinct district; and in addition to the introduction of free institutions into Van Diemen's Land, upon the Australian was to have a representative body. Into New Zealand the Governor had already introduced a legislative system, and had reported in favour of a representative one, which would, after some further information, be granted to that colony. The exception to the representative rule would be in the cases where we had only military stations, or where the races were mingled in a way which rendered such institutions impossible. Barbadoes and Jamaica had long enjoyed their own governments. Trinidad was to have a municipal council in aid of the executive, and so was Mauritius. Malta was to have elective members added to its council. His lordship then went, at some length, into the British Guiana question, and said that a species of oligarchy was paramount there; but by an infusion of new electors must be broken down, and this had been done by a certain extent, and the reform would have a still further effect. He next went into the question of transportation, a punishment he did not much approve, but as parliament did it was the Colonial Secretary's duty to carry it out with as little injury to the colonies as possible; but he warned the house that opposition to the system, on the part of the colonists, would increase, and parliament would have to consider some new plan for disposing of our criminals. He then entered upon the question of emigration, to which he looked as a most important agent in improving the condition of the people. He thought that government aid would not produce good, but would help out of the country the dregs of our population, instead of those who would make desirable emigrants. He stated that the annual average of emigrants from the United Kingdom was within about 40,000 of the annual increase of our population.

Sir W. Molesworth, Mr. Roebuck, Mr. Gladstone, and others, having made some objection, leave was given to bring in the bill.

Before the commencement of public business, Lord Ashley, with reference to the first notice on the paper, proposed that the house should pass to the other orders of the day.

Mr. Horsman, in a very frank manner, disavowed any intention of attributing bad motives to Lord John Russell, and withdrew cheerfully and fully any possible imputation upon the honour of the noble lord, or of Sir George Grey, and expressed his sincere regret that anything he had written should have been disagreeable to their feelings.

This explanation was accepted in a corresponding spirit by both Lord J. Russell and Sir G. Grey.

On the motion for the nomination of the Ceylon committee, Mr. Hume declared he did not expect justice could be done by the committee, and Mr. Stuart desired an assurance that the necessary witnesses should be summoned.

Lord J. Russell said the original understanding had been that all the witnesses desired by the committee should be summoned.

Mr. Disraeli said that efforts would be made to prevent a thorough and impartial investigation.

Mr. Roebuck considered this declaration to be a charge against the government, and asked how the committee could go into this inquiry beneficially whilst this charge was outstanding against them, of an intention to prevent the investigation? He defended Lord Torrington, who, he believed, if he had confined himself to acting, and had abstained from writing proclamations, would have escaped hostile criticism; his measures had really prevented the effusion of blood.

Mr. Hume characterised Mr. Roebuck's speech as tyrannical, and inveighed against the conduct of Lord Torrington, whose own evidence, he insisted, was sufficient to convict him.

The committee was then nominated. On the second reading of the Pirates (Head-money) Bill, Sir G. Grey thought it unfair to persons exposed to this dangerous service to deprive them of a reward so long allotted to the navy.

Sir F. Baring said, the existing system of head-money was open to grave objections, and rendered the navy liable to imputations highly derogatory to the service.

Mr. Cobden took occasion to advert to the "Borneo massacre," as he designated it, and observed that there was no evidence to show that the parties so "murdered" had ever molested an English ship or an English subject. For the honour of the country this matter should be thoroughly sifted.

Colonel Thompson observed that what was wanted was evidence to show that the Dyaks were pirates. The public entertained a fear and jealousy lest a temptation should be held out to our navy to go about the world, kill parties under the name of pirates, and charge them in the bill.

THE HOUSE THEN WENT INTO COMMITTEE.

THE MERCHANT MARINE.—Mr. Labouchere called the attention of the house to three measures, embodied in three bills, of great importance to the mercantile marine of this country, namely, one for improving the condition of masters, mates, and seamen; another for the regulation of the Merchant Seamen's Fund; the third, for regulating the advancement of the tonnage of ships. The amendment of the tonnage of the same principles as that of last session, though it was materially altered and amended. The existing evils were, the notorious incapacity of some masters of our vessels, the want of discipline in the crews, and the manner in which contracts are entered into between owners and mariners. The remedies he proposed, as in the former bill, were to establish a mercantile marine department of the Board of Trade; a system of examination of masters and mates, and public shipping-offices, under government functionaries, at the various sea-port towns, who should superintend the making of contracts between the sailor and his employer. He proposed in this bill that the shipping officers should have power to adjudicate in money questions only where both parties consented. The bill gave power to abolish the present system of registration, and to engrave it upon the new machinery. He proposed to modify the provision of last year with regard to advance notes, which the present bill made recoverable by legal process. Regarding the discipline of seamen, the bill, in addition to the provisions of that of last year—giving first-class captains a power of imprisonment, and making acts of misconduct causing loss of the ship or of life a misdemeanour—provided that on application to a consul, or commander of a Queen's ship, in a foreign port, a naval court might be established to try grave charges of misconduct, with summary power in cases of emergency.

Mr. Cardwell observed that, amongst other provisions in this bill, which had created apprehensions last year, masters of merchant ships, by the system of certificates, would be made the creatures of the Board of Trade.

The chairman was ordered to move for leave to bring in the bill.

Mr. Labouchere then addressed himself to the important and difficult question of the Merchant Seamen's Fund, and the measures necessary to place it in a more satisfactory condition. After mature consideration, he had come to the conclusion that the best course was to place the fund under one uniform control management, which he proposed to vest in the Trinity House, in conjunction with two mercantile members of the new department of the Board of Trade. He proposed that no seaman should receive a pension of more than 6d. a day; that the payment to the fund, instead of 1s., should be 1s. 6d. a month, and that the sum necessary to restore the fund to solvency, namely, £30,000 a year, should be contributed by the state.

Mr. Hume objected to consigning to the Trinity House the management of a fund which should be administered by national responsible officers.

Sir George Clerk thought the plan recommended by Lord Ellenborough's committee simpler and preferable to Mr. Labouchere's.

The discussion, which related principally to the details and machinery of the measure, was protracted to some length. Mr. W. Fagan, Sir William Clay, Mr. Cardwell, and Mr. Headlam, being the speakers.

The chairman was authorised to ask for leave to bring in this bill.

Mr. Labouchere then brought under the notice of the committee his last bill, for regulating the advancement of tonnage, which he considered would be a great improvement of the existing system, and would tend to the advancement of the shipping interest. He explained the old system, and stated that the new law of measurement which he proposed to substitute would ascertain accurately the real power of a vessel to carry cargo.

This resolution was likewise agreed to, and with the other resolutions was reported to the house.

Sir W. Somerville then moved for leave to bring in a bill to amend the laws which regulate the qualification and registration of parliamentary voters in Ireland, which he had introduced last year, when its principle was not objected to, and he explained the few alterations he had made, which were not material.

Several Irish members spoke upon the question, but none objected to the introduction of the bill, for which leave was given, as well as to bring in a bill to shorten the duration of elections in Ireland.

Sir George Grey moved for a select committee to inquire into the rules and discipline established with regard to the treatment of prisoners in gaols in England and Wales.

Mr. Pearson complained that this subject had been taken out of his hands; and intimated that unless the reference to the committee were so moulded as to embrace the objects he had in view, and the committee were fairly named, he should bring forward a specific motion on this matter hereafter.

Sir George Grey objected to giving directions to the committee specifically to take up the plan of Mr. Pearson.

Lord Naas moved the addition of the words "and Ireland."

Sir George Grey did not wish to over-load the committee with too much labour, but if the house was of opinion that it was not too much to intrust to one committee, he should defer to that opinion.

Upon a division, the amendment was negatived by 23 against 18; and the House adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12.

Mr. Milner Gibson postponed to the 26th instant his motion for the repeal of the newspaper stamp and advertisement duties, and the excise on a select committee to inquire into the facts connected with the striking of the special jury in the case of "Callanan v. Cameron"—a civil action in the county of Tipperary—Roman Catholics having been excluded from the jury list. An animated conversation ensued, but ultimately the motion was withdrawn.

On the second reading of the Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill, the House was counted out at a quarter to ten o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13.

Mr. Hume gave notice of his intention to move an address to the crown, praying her Majesty to consider whether the present government of Ireland by a lord-lieutenant might not be dispensed with, and some better system adopted. He would also propose a motion on a future day for allowing a drawing on all bricks and timber used for building cottages under the rated value of £4.

On moving the second reading of the Highways (District Surveyors) Bill, Mr. Frewen explained its principle, the object being to divide the country into districts for the appointment of paid surveyors of the roads.

Sir W. Jolliffe objected to affirming the principle of the bill until the general measure of the government on the subject was before the house; and, after some discussion, the second reading of the bill was deferred to a future day.

COUNTY RATES.—Mr. Gibson moved the second reading of the County Rates and Expenditure Bill, which, he observed was similar to the measure of last session, its object being to establish county councils to control county expenditure analogous to town councils for the control of town expenditure (hear, hear). There was no ground, he said, for the objection that the bill would supersede the powers of the magistracy; it merely gave the ratepayers a concurrent control with the government over county finances, leaving the judicial functions of the justices untouched. He anticipated a charge threatened by Mr. Disraeli, of inconsistency, by observing that rates in the long run were a portion of rent, and were therefore paid by the tenant occupiers; and he answered another objection—that the margin of reduction was too small to justify the alteration of an old system. He merely asked the house to acquiesce in a most reasonable principle, that taxation and representation should go together. He should propose to refer the bill to a select committee.

(Continued from the 3rd page.)

nominees; instead of two rates—poor rate and highway rate—there would be one rate collected by the overseer, and there would still be a maximum. It was proposed to give to parishes a power of combining for the maintenance of highways; to provide for the audit of accounts by the poor-law auditor; to repeal Sir C. Burrell's Act, and to provide instead that the money applied from the highway funds to insolvent trusts should be expended by the paid surveyors. The bill also gave power to boards of guardians to appoint standing committees for the special management of highway affairs.

In the partial discussion which ensued, Sir R. Peel gave his cordial support to the introduction of the bill. He thought it wise to separate the highways from turnpike roads, and to require a compulsory combination of parishes. He did not think the proposed audit would be an effectual check.

After some further discussion leave was given to bring in the bill, which was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on that day fortnight.

On the motion of Mr. F. Maule, the select committee on army and ordnance expenditure was nominated.

The house adjourned at half-past five o'clock.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

Mr. Hume postponed his motion for reform of parliament until this day fortnight.

Mr. Aglionby gave notice that this day fortnight he would move for leave to bring in a bill for the compulsory enfranchisement of copyholds.

Mr. Ewart postponed his motion for the repeal of the advertisement duty until this day fortnight.

In answer to questions from Lord Duncannon, Lord J. Russell stated that he hoped on Thursday next to introduce a bill for the better administration of the department of Woods and Forests.

In answer to Mr. Bourne, Lord J. Russell was understood to say that a measure for the reform of the ecclesiastical courts was in preparation.

In reference to a question regarding the timber duties, Lord J. Russell postponed giving any definite reply as to the intentions of the Government, until the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made his usual financial statement.

TOWN LIBRARIES.—Mr. Ewart moved for leave to bring in a bill for enabling town-councils to establish public libraries and museums. No country, he observed, even London was in this respect behind Paris and Dresden, and some of our large towns were totally destitute of public libraries. Not only did the general literature of the country suffer from the deficiency, but the intellectual improvement of the people was retarded, self-education being of greater benefit to the mass of the population than any other form of instruction. The bill proposed to authorise town-councils to levy a small rate for the establishment of public libraries and museums; to purchase lands and erect buildings for that purpose, vesting the property in the town councils for ever; and to secure to the public gratuitous admission to these institutions. Leave was given.

MINISTERS' MONEY IN IRELAND.—Mr. W. Fagan then rose to move, for the third time, for a committee of the whole house, to take into consideration the law relating to the rate or tax called "ministers' money" in Ireland. He urged the obnoxious and unjust nature of an imposition levied upon Dublin, Cork, Clonmel, Kilkenny, Kinsale, Drogheda, and Waterford, inhabited mostly by Roman Catholics, whilst the towns of Protestant Ulster were exempt.

Sir George Grey said, as the circumstances of the case were almost identical the same as upon the last occasion when the motion was made, he was compelled to take the same course, and move the previous question.

Considerable discussion ensued, but ultimately the house divided, when the previous question was carried by 96 against 76; so that the motion was lost.

TRANSPORTATION.—Mr. Adderley moved for leave to bring in a bill to repeal part of the act of George IV., which empowers her Majesty in council to appoint places for the transportation of felons; the object of the bill being to vest this power and discretion in parliament. Though the Cape had now been relieved from the odium and the injury of being made a convict colony under the present law, other colonies were liable in future times to the visitation. It was not his intention to interfere with the system of transportation, but to remove incidents which endangered the system; neither did he design to trench in the slightest degree upon the prerogative of the crown.

Sir G. Grey said the proposition of Mr. Adderley, if adopted, would increase the embarrassments of the transportation system tenfold. The power he proposed to withdraw from the crown had been exercised by it (not perhaps by virtue of the prerogative, that might be a question), ever since transportation had been an ordinary punishment by the statute law. Sir George defended the government and Sir H. Smith from the reflections cast upon them in relation to the occurrences at the Cape.

Sir William Molesworth said the conduct of the Colonial Secretary, in the case of the Cape, proved that the government should not be trusted with this power.

The Attorney-General reminded the house that the question was not the propriety of abolishing transportation, or of the conduct of the government at the Cape, but whether the crown should retain the power vested in it.

Mr. Aglionby supported the motion, considering that the discretion of the government should not be fettered in carrying out sentences prescribed in the statute-book.

Mr. Hume supported the motion, though he differed from Sir W. Molesworth.

worth and from Mr. Adderley so far as he was disposed to trust the Colonial Secretary.

Lord John Russell could not see what object Mr. Adderley could have in view, except to show that the power vested in the Crown had been abused, and, therefore, ought to be taken away. But this would be deciding a very important question upon very insufficient data. Supposing Lord Grey's conduct had been wrong, it was illogical to argue from particular cases to generals, and conclude that all secretaries of state would act in the same manner.

After a few words from Mr. Stanford, and a reply from Mr. Adderley, the motion was negatived by 110 against 32.

On the motion of Mr. Ewart, the committee on public libraries was re-appointed.

Mr. Pusey moved for leave to bring in a bill for the improvement of the relation between landlord and tenant in England and Wales, which, after a few words from Mr. Aglionby, was given.

The house adjourned at ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

Earl Grey, in reply to a question from Lord Montagu, stated that no official information had been received of certain alleged abuses on board a female emigrant ship bound to the Australian colonies.

The house adjourned at ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY.

Mr. Hayter, in answer to Mr. G. Scott, stated that no contract had yet been executed for steam communication with the Australian colonies. The subject was still under consideration.

Lord J. Russell, in reply to a question, stated that the government had under consideration the subject of introducing a bill for taking the census for 1851.

In reply to Mr. D'Israeli, Lord John Russell stated the Danish government had not refused to renew the armistice of the 10th July last. In the absence of Lord Palmerston, he could not give any further information.

The house then resolved itself into a committee, when Lord J. Russell made his promised statements with regard to the Irish Unions, and the measures he proposed to take in respect to the advances made by this country. The noble lord recapitulated all the loans and grants made to Ireland since 1839, which amount in the aggregate to £4,483,000, and he proposed that this sum should be converted into consolidated annuities, repayable in forty years, with interest at the same rate as was charged under the different acts of parliament making the grants. He next proposed that the additional sum of £300,000 should be advanced, to enable the guardians of the Poor-law Unions to pay off debts contracted for food and clothing during the last few years. The noble lord concluded by expressing his conviction, founded on the increase of pauperism, that Ireland was not in a state of progressive improvement.

The resolution was then put, and, upon the question that the report be received, a lengthy debate took place. The speakers were Mr. Bright, Mr. Graham, Mr. Muntz, Lord Naas, Mr. C. C. C. Sir W. Somerville, Mr. Herbert, Lord C. Hamilton, and several others, and the resolutions were agreed to without a division.

The Party Procession (Ireland) Bill was read the second time.

The Court of Chancery (Ireland) Bill was read the second time, after a long and uninteresting discussion.

On the motion that the Speaker do leave the chair for the house to go into a committee upon registry offices in bankruptcies, which is a bill for abolishing sinecures and uniting two offices, Mr. Henry moved an amendment to refer the bill to a select committee.

This was opposed by the Attorney-General and others, but on a division the numbers for the amendment were 61; against it, 57; majority 4. The ministers were consequently defeated, a result that was received with much cheering.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

FEBRUARY 18.

On the motion of Lord Brougham, the bill for shortening the language of acts of Parliament was read the second time.

Lord Stanley then brought under the consideration of the House the affair of Dolly's Brae on the 12th of July last, by moving for certain papers. He condemned both the Lord Lieutenant and the Lord Chancellor of Ireland for their proceedings towards the Earl of Roden and the other magistrates who had been dismissed from the commission of the peace.—Lord Clarendon answered Lord Stanley at considerable length, going through the history of the case, and defending the conduct of Government in dismissing the magistrates.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FEBRUARY 18.

In answer to a question from Sir R. Inglis, Mr. Stuart Wortley stated that the Marriage Bill would be in the hands of members in a few days. Delay had taken place in consequence of his anxiety to introduce a clause recommended by an honorable and learned member.—Sir R. Inglis said, that when a bill had been read the first time, it was incompetent for the mover to alter it without the consent of the house.—The Speaker, upon being appealed to, also thought the consent of the house should be given on any alteration in the bill.—Mr. O'Connor asked the Speaker whether, as an attack had been made on him by the honorable and learned member for Sheffield, Mr. Roebuck, he could bring the subject under the consideration of the house in moving an adjournment or otherwise.—The Speaker said that no course was open to him to bring the subject under the consideration of the house. The Attorney-General, in answer to a question, stated that the Government intended to introduce a bill into the House of Lords to alter the grand jury system in the metropolis.—Mr. Disraeli, in reply to Sir G. Grey, said that if the motion with respect to the poor-laws, which stood for tomorrow, were adopted, he would move resolutions and make a statement with respect to them. In answer to a question from Mr. Sanders, Lord Palmerston said her Majesty's government had proposed

to continue the armistice between the Danish and Prussian governments, and that the Danish government had consented to do so conditionally on the Prussian government also consenting; the central government also consenting; there might be some difficulty as to the latter, but he was in communication with it, and in the mean time the armistice would be continued until further notice.—Mr. Scott at great length moved the postponement of the second reading of the Australian Colonies Government Bill until further papers were produced.—Mr. Labouchere would not now go into details, but he denied that the last speaker represented the opinions of the colonists, and he defended the nominees system, which was necessary to counteract the democratic influence.—Mr. Roebuck assailed the bill as a miserable abortion, and denounced the Colonial Office as a mildew upon colonies. Lord J. Russell described Mr. Roebuck's speech as full of blunders, and defended the Colonial Office, and said that the government had wished to give more weight to the opinion of the colonists.—Mr. P. Peel generally approved of the measure, but wished for a double chamber.—Sir W. Molesworth objected to the bill as a hybrid scheme, which gave the Australians a bad constitution, and then told them to mend it.—Mr. Chisholm opposed the bill; Mr. Mangles supported it, though objecting to details.

The most interesting event in the transactions of the United States Congress is the introduction of a series of resolutions into the Senate by Mr. Elby. These resolutions propose an amicable arrangement of all the controverted topics between the free and slave States.

The first maintains the admission of California into the American Union, free from any restriction on the exclusion or introduction of slavery within its limits. In the 2nd resolution it is provided that territorial government should be established by Congress in the territories acquired from Mexico, without the imposition of any condition on the subject of slavery. The 3rd and 4th resolutions contend that the western boundary of Texas be fixed on the Rio del Norte, from its mouth to the mouth of the Sabine. The 5th and 6th assert that slavery ought not to be abolished in the districts of Columbia during the existence of the institution in the States of Maryland of the district, and a just compensation to the owners of the slaves, and that the slave trade, under certain conditions, should be abolished within the federal district as repugnant to the common feelings of mankind. In the 7th final resolution it is urged that provision should be made by Congress for the more effectual restoration of slaves in any State escaping into any other State or territory; and that Congress has no power to prohibit the trade in slaves between the several States, that being an arrangement to be decided, according to the principles of the Constitution, by the particular laws of the States themselves. The resolutions were sustained by Mr. Clay, in a speech of masterly eloquence and ability, which produced a strong sensation on the Senate; they were ordered to be made the subject of special consideration in the Senate, on Tuesday, February 5.

The Washington correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* says—"I learn from an authentic source that the Captain-General of Cuba has been instructed by his Government to liberate the slaves in case of an invasion or insurrection. The Hudson's Bay Company, through the British Minister, have renewed their proposition, made during the administration of President Polk, to the United States Government, to dispose of all their possessory rights in Oregon south of 49 degrees for 1,000,000 dollars. This proposition was communicated to the Senate in executive session. The price asked is the same as before."

Late advices from Venezuela mention affairs exhibiting a high degree of prosperity. General Paez was still in confinement. The coffee crop was abundant. Another engagement was said to have taken place between the Haytian and Dominican fleets. Some of the foreign merchants had refused to comply with all the requirements of the monopoly law in regard to the sale of foreign produce. The monopoly on coffee was taken off by a Royal decree of the Emperor on the 10th of last month.

Between 50 and 60 persons had been killed by the explosion of a boiler at New York.

DEATH OF LORD JEFFREY.—Edinburgh has lost the most admired and most beloved of her citizens. Lord Jeffrey died on Saturday afternoon. Francis Jeffrey was born in the old town of Edinburgh, in the year 1773—his father being a writer in respectable practice, chiefly from the north. He himself was called to the bar in 1794. In 1820 he was elected Lord Rector of the University of Glasgow, his immediate successors in that office being Macintosh, Brougham, and Campbell. He was chosen Dean of the Faculty of Advocates in 1829, when he resigned the charge of the *Edinburgh Review*, of which he had been editor from its commencement in 1802. He became Lord Advocate on the accession of Earl Grey's Government in November, 1830. Having represented the Perth district of towns and Lord Fitzwilliam's borough of Malton, in Yorkshire, from 1830 to 1832, he was in the last days of the latter year returned at the head of the poll as one of the two representatives of the Scottish capital under the Reform Bill. He continued to sit for the city, until he was raised to the Bench in 1834. For us, writing in Edinburgh—the city of his birth, of his brilliant youth, of his matured fame and honours—would be superfluous to dwell at length on the events of his career, honourable as they are for his country and for him—and, perhaps, it is not yet time. But a few words must be allowed. At his entrance on the stage, he had adopted the opinions which he adhered to during life. The world has changed much since then. In his youth those opinions were held by a large portion of society to be dangerous, and their honest and avowed supporter had impediments to meet in any career which he might choose. This was the case more especially in the profession at the bar, and for many a year the cautious agent avoided sending his brief to the industrious counsel and skilful and eloquent pleader who "had not the ear of the Court." It might have been gratification enough for most men to have outlived such prejudices. But Mr. Jeffrey had the additional pleasure of having helped to remove and destroy them. Whatever may be our political opinions, no one can regard without admiration the early talent, the honesty of purpose, and the independency of the *Edinburgh Review*. He was not only its editor during the period of its chief power

and brilliancy, but he found time, amid the pressure of increasing professional business, to contribute, for many years, its most important and successful papers. His exquisite taste and appreciation of literary merit—his honest and fearless criticism—his ingenuity, and the graceful flow of his language, fitted him, beyond any other, for such a task. His genius, too, though so delicate and subtle, had no tendency to sophistry. He might be wrong in judgment, or mistaken in taste, but it was almost peculiar in one so richly endowed, that he never (out of his professional career) lost sight of truth in contending for victory. Mr. Jeffrey combined in himself the highest qualities of an advocate. His resources were unbounded, but his ingenuity and marvellous readiness never led him to neglect the honest study of his case. In private life he was most amiable; and for these many years his house was the place of meeting of most that was distinguished or estimable in our city. After a severe attack of illness in summer, Lord Jeffrey had so much recovered that he resumed his seat on the bench at the commencement of the winter session; and we believe he was in Court without missing one "sederunt" till within three days of his death. His love of letters, too, burned bright to the last. Within these few years circumstances had arisen to revive his interest in the *Edinburgh Review*. Perhaps the last considerable thing which he wrote for publication was a long and admirable article in its pages, on the disputed question of the discovery of the composition of water—the last number was much indebted to his industry and judgment—and no later than the beginning of last week he was engaged in suggesting contributions for the next publication. His last illness was exceedingly short. He was out and enjoying exercise on Monday and Tuesday, though complaining of slight indisposition. On Wednesday, he had an attack of his old malady—an affection of the bronchial tube, which soon brought on fever. On Thursday and Friday the disease gained ground, and he expired on Saturday afternoon at six o'clock. His suffering was not great, and he died at last so gently as to be almost unobserved, while his medical attendant held his fingers on his pulse.—*Edinburgh Evening Courant*.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

(From the *Liverpool Albion*, February 19.)

OUR accounts from Paris received during the week present few striking or important features.

The debates in the Legislative Assembly have been almost altogether uninteresting. On Friday week a brief interrogation was addressed to the Ministry in regard to relations with Greece and French mediation. On Monday and Tuesday the topic of debate was the Education Bill, and from an indirect avowal by M. Montalembert, that he rejoiced in the influence which the priesthood would exercise, some excitement arose. M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire replied, and M. Thiers deemed it prudent to rise and restore the credit of the *Parti libéral* from the blow thus internally inflicted upon it. By some the address is regarded as an *exposé* of the evils of exaggerated democracy.

On Thursday M. Boyssset proposed a vote of censure on the Government for their treatment of M. Proudhon: it was rejected by a majority of 484 to 169.

A Council of Ministers was held on Thursday at the Elysée. Some of the journals state that General Changarnier, who had been summoned to attend, did so, and expressed his approbation of the superior commands recently given to Generals Gemesu, Castellane, and Rostolan.

The Minister of Finance also presented a bill to the assembly for a grant of 500,000 francs to provide for the arrears of interest due on the Greek loan, of which one-third was guaranteed by France.

From Paris and the provinces we learn that tranquillity prevailed. Accounts from Lyons and Marseilles early in the week indicated the existence of considerable excitement, arising out of the reports of riots in the capital; but, either from the strength of the military or the indifference of the people, no violent manifestations were observed. A slight military *emoncé* occurred in one of the country garrisons, unconnected with political affairs; but in every other respect the quietude was undisturbed.

From the *Moniteur* and other Paris journals we learn, however, that the President has resolved upon the adoption of a most important and suggestive military arrangement for the entire Republic. By decree, the country has been divided into four grand military divisions, and extraordinary powers of command over each have been vested in as many generals. Paris is still confined to General Changarnier, however, and the remainder are occupied by General Rostolan and others. Power is given to each to institute the "state of siege," and action can be determined upon simply by reference to the commander-in-chief in Paris.

The Paris journals discuss this important arrangement, and question the purpose for which such extraordinary powers are granted. The *Sicile*, which treats the question at large, arrives at the conclusion either that the existing dangers are of the most serious character, or that the measure is taken with a view to favour personal ambition.

The *Patrie* of Friday, states that rumours of disturbances in the South which were in circulation in the assembly on Thursday were much exaggerated, and that a certain disturbance which had taken place at Narbonne on the occasion of the carnival had been immediately suppressed.

Rumours of Ministerial changes have been current. According to one report, the President and General Changarnier do not agree. Another report states that M. Lamartine is either to enter the Cabinet or receive a diplomatic appointment. They are severally denied by the Ministerial journals.

The Minister of the Interior has addressed a circular to the public functionaries in the provinces inculcating the duty of guarding "order" during the approaching anniversary of the 25th of February. Paris is to be illuminated on that event.

Prosecutions of journals and dismissals of Socialists continue to teem in the

journals. The *Voix du Peuple*, M. Proudhon's journal, was again seized on Thursday.

Several distinguished advocates have protested against the solitary confinement imposed upon M. Proudhon. His family have been permitted to visit him at the Conciergerie.

The elections for the thirty representations vacant by forfeiture are appointed for the 10th of March. General Lahitte, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, is one of the candidates for the representation of Paris.

An electoral meeting of democratic Socialist electors of Paris was held on Thursday evening. The police did not interfere, and the proceedings passed off in an orderly manner.

The ambassador from Greece to the French Republic has arrived in Paris.

The *Moniteur*, of Friday, announces that the President of the Republic has received a letter, by which his Majesty the Emperor of Russia notifies the birth of a grand-duke, a son of his Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Her Apparent Alexander Nicolaevitch. This prince received the name of Alexia at the baptismal font.

A letter from Louvre, dated Wednesday morning last, states that immense damage had been caused in that neighbourhood by the overflowing of the Seine. The waters had risen above twenty feet.

The President visited the barracks of the Grenadier Mobile on Thursday, and was well received. He bestowed several decorations.

GERMANY.

From Germany our advices are comparatively scanty and unimportant.

From Berlin we learn that, on the 6th instant, after his Majesty's formal acceptance of the constitution, various festivities occurred and the city was illuminated. Subsequently the Chambers proceeded to discuss special laws; and by both a law was carelessly accepted which virtually negatived the provision of the Constitution, to which they had sworn, that the "domestic is inviolable."

A right of entry was thus conferred on the police. On the 11th the Minister of War laid on the table a demand for an extraordinary credit for military purposes, and according to report, the maintenance of the army above the peace footing is owing to the opposition manifested by the Emperor of Russia to the Erfurt Parliament, rendering it necessary for Prussia to be prepared for any warlike emergency.

The *Breslau Gazette* says, that the Austrian Councillor of Legation, Zarembo, has sent in to the Court of Berlin a protest on the part of Austria and Russia against the oath taken by the King of Prussia to the constitution.

The Prince of Prussia, heir apparent, has addressed a letter to his Majesty accepting the Constitution as the foundation of his best hopes.

We have no special intelligence respecting the Erfurt Parliament. The Council of Administration has declared that the restricted federal compact must be presented to the Parliament intact.

On the 12th instant, in the Second Chamber, the following names were chosen for the Staatenhaus at Erfurt:—V. Paton, Camphausen, Ambrone, Reidel, Lensing, Hesse, Buchhausen, H. V. Arnim, Bodelschwingh, of Magdeburg, and Count Dylm.

Letters from Munich state that the Jewish question still remained an undecided difficulty with the chambers. Events in Greece had caused much grief to the King and Queen Theresa.

Letters from Hanover state that it was understood the King had granted an amnesty to all Hanoverians implicated in the late Baden insurrection.

We learn that Lord Westmoreland, in reference to the Danish question, had addressed a spirited remonstrance to the Prussian Cabinet. The Prussian Government has addressed to its Minister at Copenhagen an energetic note on the reference made in the speech of the King of Denmark on the opening of the chambers, to "a great power from which the maled subjects of Schleswig-Holstein might find support."

This note complains that such words, if applied to Prussia and Germany, do not accord with the negotiations entered into with them; and it declares that the negotiations would be broken off at once if the complicated situation of affairs did not cause it to be feared that such a step might lead to a general war. The negotiations between Denmark and Prussia are temporarily suspended.

At Sax-Gotha the Democrats have carried the elections.

The seat of the administration of the mines of Silesia has been removed from Brieg to Breslau, in consequence of the political opinions of the corporation.

The floods of the rivers of Western Germany, which have done so much damage, were declining. On the Eastern rivers, where the thaw set in later, there was still danger of further devastation.

AUSTRIA.

Letters from Vienna announce the recovery of the Emperor from his recent indisposition. The Ministry had at length published in *extenso* its project for the formation of an entire Customs Union, abandoning prohibitive for protective duties. The amount of protection will be rather high; but even this is, for Austria, an advance from the narrow system under which the contraband trade flourished, especially in the provinces that border on the Adriatic.

A contradiction is given to the reports that Austria had desired either to sell Lombardy or to erect it into an independent state under the Duke of Modena.

The official journals continue the publication of various constitutions, inclusive of that of Bohemia.

The Greek Minister M. Zographos, had arrived in Vienna en route to St. Petersburg. The *Lloyd* asserts that an Austrian fleet was preparing to sail for Greece to oppose the proceedings of Sir W. Parker and the English squadron.

It is reported, also, that the Minister of Foreign Affairs has sent instructions to the Austrian envoy at Athens to act conjointly with the Russian embassy in all its proceedings in this new difficulty.

The Vienna journals publish violent attacks upon Lord Palmerston.

The University of Pesth has been transferred into the Fortress of Buda.

The feelings of the people in Hungary generally are most unfavourable to the Government.

Other letters from Pesth state that an important party has been formed among the Magyars to demand, not only the abolition of the old Constitution, but the adoption of absolutism. We learn that already 70,000 Honvards have been incorporated in the Austrian army, and that the incorporations still continue.

Austrian military authorities in Hungary have released from custody Count Teleky, an officer of the Hungarian army. Count L. Bathanyi, who was incorporated in the army as a private, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

ITALY.

We learn from Turin that several partial elections had resulted in favour of the Conservatives, although the Liberals had gained some ground.

Accounts from Portici state that the departure of the Pope for Rome, which had been fixed for the 14th instant, was again adjourned, in consequence of some unpleasant circumstances connected with a public ball given in the Theatre Massimo, at Rome. Cardinal Deponti had arrived at Rome on the 5th instant, and had immediately set out for Portici.

The ambassadors of Austria and Russia are said to have again protested against the Pope's coming back to Rome.

By a notification of the Roman Government commission, dated the 1st, the importation of corn, cattle, oil, soap, and a few other articles duty free, at Ancona and Civita Vecchia, is abolished.

Letters from Florence state, that there exists an open rupture (*aperta rottura*) between the Court of Portici and the French Government since the mysterious attack on a courier, on the road to Naples, who was robbed of his despatches. A letter from a general commanding an auxiliary force for the Pope was found, in which it was said the Austrians were about to march on Rome.

It was asserted that the Papal Government had a secret agreement with Austria to shave (*far la barba*) the French. Fortunately for themselves, the latter were on their guard.

The Tuscan Government has doubled the duties on corn and merchandise introduced into the free port of Leghorn.

A letter from Naples, of the 5th instant, states that a sedition movement had taken place at Palermo on the 27th ultimo, and that six of the chiefs had been shot. A detachment of troops had been despatched from Naples to Palermo.

SWITZERLAND.

From Switzerland we have various advices. It is stated that Russia, Prussia, Austria, and Sardinia, have united in order to repress the springs of danger which exist in the Republic's territories; and it is added that France will probably place an army near the western frontier.

According to another statement, the advice of the British Minister has been sought by the Federal Council. The *Köln Zeitung* has a letter from Berlin, of the 12th instant, protesting that no note whatever had been sent to the Swiss Confederation by the great powers. No note will be sent for the present, as it is thought that a half-official remonstrance will lead to the desired result.

Letters of the 11th state, that considerable agitation prevailed in the cantons of Geneva and Vaud, particularly in the direction of Lausanne and Nyon. The moderate party at Berne are apprehensive of a rising against them.

SPAIN.

Our accounts from Spain advise that her Majesty Queen Isabella remained in a gratifying state. It was anticipated that her pregnancy would be officially announced in a few days. On the 7th her Majesty drove on the Prado with her royal consort. Rumours had prevailed of a new conspiracy to vest a regency in his Royal Highness.

Reports of a new Montemolinist movement in the spring prevailed.

Her Majesty had conferred a very valuable estate on General Narvaez in return for his services. A duel had been fought between two Progressist editors.

Letters of the 10th instant, since received, announce that the Senate had granted the authorization to collect the taxes by a majority of 119 votes to 80. It was believed that the royal decree for the prorogation of the Cortes would be read to both chambers on the 11th.

Madrid was never so gay as during the present carnival, which was favoured by the finest weather. The authorities, however, had thought proper to adopt some measures of precaution, and the troops of the garrison had been consigned to their barracks.

The *Heraldo* announces the discovery of a rich quicksilver mine, in the province of Guadalupe, between Bujalaro and Mantillas.

PORTUGAL.

Letters from Lisbon to the 9th instant announce the existence of great excitement, arising out of the Premier's descending to see the *Morning Post* as an "individual" when the reputation of his Queen was involved. Violent scenes had been enacted in the chamber; on one occasion the mob joining in a yell from the galleries. In the Chamber of Peers Count de Thomar was released from the necessity of replying to a question addressed to him in reference to it. The Count de Saldanha voted against the Cabinet on the division; and next day the Queen dismissed him from his office in the palace. On the 6th, Count Levrado moved that since the chamber would not admit his interpellation, it should declare its indignation at the introduction of the Queen's name into the affidavit. His motion was negatived by the majority.

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